



Wyoming Department of Health  
Aging Division

## Policy Information Notice

**DATE:** January 5, 2007

**PIN #:** NUTR-2007-1

**SUBJECT:** Buffet-style Meals, Salad Bars, and Free-Choice Menus

**TO:** OAA Title III-C Nutrition Program Grantees

This Policy Information Notice serves to clarify the Federal and State requirements for eligible meals that are subsidized through the provisions of the Older Americans Act. Title III-C1/C2 nutrition services providers must assure that Administration on Aging (AoA) funded meals meet the criteria for eligibility, as specified in the Older Americans Act (OAA), section 331-339, AoA regulations, and any other applicable Federal and State laws, rules, and policies.

Meals provided to eligible recipients must meet one-third of the daily dietary requirements for persons 60 years of age or older. Standardized recipes and nutritional analysis of the meal must be available at the contracted nutrition site to verify that the meal meets required nutritional criteria. Meal component portions must be provided in measured amounts that match the nutritional analysis. Per guidance from AoA, it is not the responsibility of the meal recipient to choose what meal components meet one-third of their daily dietary requirements. It is the responsibility of the nutrition project to offer appropriate food items in measured portions, using standardized recipes for the meal served, *if Federal and State reimbursement is expected*.

Buffet meals, family-style meals, free choice restaurant meals, multiple item "salad bars" or other portion-variable meal services do NOT meet Federal requirements. (A *limited* salad bar, which offers fresh vegetables and low-fat dressings *may* be acceptable, if it is incorporated into the meal menu and nutritional analysis; please contact the Aging Division for further guidance.) Meals that do not meet one-third of the daily dietary requirements, and other Federal program requirements, are not eligible for Federal funding, or the State and local funding used to match those Federal funds.

These types of buffet or free-choice food services may be offered and provided **only** with other funding that is not related to the AoA Title III-C programs. Since these types of meal services are NOT eligible for Title III-C Federal and State funding, they may not be included in eligible meal counts, and must be separately tracked from the AoA eligible meals for fiscal accountability. Please contact the Aging Division's Nutrition Program Manager if you have any questions or need further guidance.

Beverly Morrow, Administrator